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The Octofoil, January/February 1983

Ninth Infantry Division Association

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THE OCTOFOIL

412 Gregory Ave. Weehawken, N. J. 07087

THE NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION

Association Dues: \$5.00 per year - \$1.50
for the year marked to pay for the Octofoil

Volume XXVIII Number 1

Jan-Feb 1983

Reunion Plans Finalized

1983 REUNION PROGRAM

THURSDAY, JULY 21st

REGISTRATION..... 10:00 A.M. - ALL DAY
GOLF OUTING CANADA?..... 12:00 NOON
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING..... 4:00 P.M.
OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION..... 8:00-11:30 P.M.

FRIDAY, JULY 22nd

REGISTRATION..... 10:00 A.M. - ALL DAY
BUSINESS AND COMMITTEE MEETINGS..... 10:00 A.M.
GENERAL MEMBERSHIP MEETING..... 11:00 A.M.
LADIES MEETING AND SOCIAL..... 11:00 A.M.
BOARD OF GOVERNORS MEETING..... 4:00 P.M.
COCKTAIL HOUR..... 5:30 P.M.
BANQUET..... 6:30 P.M.

SATURDAY, JULY 23rd

REGISTRATION..... 10:00 A.M. - ALL DAY
MEMORIAL MASS..... 8:30 A.M.
MEMORIAL CEREMONY..... 10:00 A.M.
AFTERNOON VARIETY..... 12:00 NOON
EVENING MASS..... 4:30 P.M.
DANCE..... 8:30 P.M.-12:00 A.M.

DETROIT WELCOMES YOU TO OUR 38th ANNUAL REUNION

The Michigan Chapter is diligently working to assure all a memorable 38th Annual Reunion.

We would like each member to consider this a personal invitation to attend the coming Reunion in Detroit.

Some of you may have read in a recent news story distributed by a national wire service about the financial problems of the corporation which owns the Detroit Renaissance Center. Although the existing financial problems cannot be denied, it should be pointed out that the Renaissance Center is very much alive and will be around for a long time to come. In fact, long after we are all gone. Its office and shopping areas are 95 percent occupied and employing many thousands of people. Large companies including General Motors and Ford Motor have large office staffs in the complex.

Accommodate All

Our 1983 reunion will be in the ultra modern Westin Hotel which is the centerpiece of the Renaissance Center. In comparison with several of the recent reunions where our members were scattered among a number of hotels, the Westin Hotel with 1400 rooms can accommodate all who come to the Detroit Reunion. Also, it should be pointed out that the special room rates of \$59.00 are the same as for the Hyannis Reunion several years ago.

Continue With Your Plans

Therefore, if you have read or heard any unfavorable publicity concerning the Renaissance Center, we ask that you set aside your fears. Continue with your plans to come to Detroit this July for another great Ninth Division Reunion. Please be advised that the special rates at the Westin Hotel also apply for four days prior to and four days after the convention dates.

Be assured the Westin Hotel will make your stay a pleasant one.

1983 Detroit Reunion
Committee

The Michigan group recommends the following "Points of Interest" in Metropolitan Detroit:

GREENFIELD VILLAGE & HENRY FORD MUSEUM
Put yourself in Thomas Edison's place, or that of Henry Ford or the Wright Brothers, as you visit their homes and workshops at this indoor/outdoor museum complex.

DETROIT ZOOLOGICAL PARK

Follow the elephant tracks through the park, past 5,000 animals in natural habitat settings. Chromatic birds freely fly the tropics past waterfall, pond and lush greenery recreated in the Aviary. Emperor penguins stand regally in the world's largest penguinarium. The African Veldt and South American Pampas are part of America's first "barless" zoo. Tour by zoo train if you like. Picnic and refreshment areas are plentiful.

WINDSOR, CANADA

Meet Detroit's charming next door neighbor, just across the River. Detroit's the only point in the U.S. where you can look south into Canada. The Detroit-Windsor Tunnel, just west of Renaissance Center, or the Ambassador Bridge, the longest suspension bridge linking two nations, provide easy access to this foreign country.



DETROIT'S REVITALIZED RIVERFRONT (from lower left) includes the Joe Louis Sports Arena, Cobo Hall and Convention Arena, Veterans Memorial Building, Philip A. Hart Plaza, Ford Auditorium and Renaissance Center. Joe Louis Arena is the latest addition to the city's dramatically reshaped riverfront, and was the site of the 1980 Republican National Convention. Cobo Hall/Arena is the city's 400,000 square-foot exhibition facility. The 10-acre Philip A. Hart Plaza, designed by renowned sculptor Isamu Noguchi, hosts millions at Detroit's summer-long series of ethnic festivals. Ford Auditorium is the home of the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. The Renaissance Center, a soaring hotel-office-retail complex, has become the symbol of Detroit's revitalization over the past six years.

COMMITTEES

CHAIRMAN - BOB DeSANDY

CO-CHAIRMAN - FRED JOSEY

TREASURER - RODGER ALSGAARD

REGISTRATION AND FINANCE - CHAIRMAN - RODGER ALSGAARD

PRE-REGISTRATION WILL BE USED AGAIN IN 1983, AND ALL ARE ENCOURAGED TO USE THIS METHOD THAT POSSIBLY CAN. THIS SHOULD MAKE REGISTRATION LESS OF A TASK FOR ALL.

THERE WILL BE A RECEPTION COMMITTEE AT THE HOTEL ON WEDNESDAY TO GREET EARLY ARRIVALS. REGISTRATION WILL REMAIN OPEN ALL DAY THROUGHOUT THE REUNION. NAMES WILL BE UPDATED ON THE BOARDS FREQUENTLY SO EVERYONE CAN CHECK ON THEIR FRIENDS AS THEY ARRIVE. THE COST OF STRIP TICKETS ARE \$42.00.

GOLF - CHAIRMAN - FRED JOSEY

ARRANGEMENTS ARE INCOMPLETE. BUT WE ARE LOOKING AT COURSES IN NEAR BY CANADA. THIS COULD BE AN INTERNATIONAL TOURNAMENT. MOST OF ALL, A LOT OF FUN.

DANCE - CHAIRMAN - FRED JOSEY

THURSDAY, JULY 21, 8:00 P.M., OPENING NIGHT RECEPTION

THIS WILL BE THE BEGINNING OF TWO NIGHTS OF DANCING. A TIME TO MEET AND ENJOY A PLEASANT EVENING TOGETHER. THE CHET BOGAN WOLVERINE JAZZ BAND, ALONG WITH DIXIE BELL, WILL ENTERTAIN US WITH THE SOUNDS OF BOURBON STREET. THERE WILL BE PLENTY OF BEER, POP, AND PRETZELS TO ROUND OUT THE EVENING.

A CASH BAR WILL BE AVAILABLE.

PROGRAM BOOK - JIM BRUNNER, CHAIRMAN

THERE WILL BE A PROGRAM BOOK, BUT WE ARE LIMITING THE BOOK TO TWENTY PAGES. FULL PAGE ADS ARE AVAILABLE ONLY TO THE CHAPTERS AT \$50.00 PER PAGE. WE ARE CONSIDERING THREE PAGES AS MEMORIALS, LIST A NAME AND MAKE A DONATION IN THE AMOUNT YOU DESIRE. THE BALANCE OF THE AVAILABLE SPACE IS TO BE USED FOR BOOSTER'S \$2.00 PER NAME AND OUTFIT.

WE NEED YOUR SUPPORT.

MEMORIAL, JULY 23rd - CHAIRMAN ED WISNIEWSKI

THE PROGRAM WILL BEGIN WITH MEMORIAL MASS, 8:30 A.M. MARQUETTE ROOM IN THE HOTEL. THERE WILL BE AMPLE TIME FOR BREAKFAST AND THE 4/10 OF A MILE, CASUAL WALK ACROSS HART PLAZA TO THE VETERANS MEMORIAL BUILDING WHERE THE MEMORIAL CEREMONY WILL BE HELD AT 10:00 A.M.

AMENDMENTS

Paragraph 42. These by-laws, may be amended, changed or repealed by the affirmative vote of a majority of those members present at any annual or special meeting of the members provided notice of the proposed amendment shall have been given in a notice of the meeting or they may be amended, changed or repealed by a majority vote of the board of governors at any meeting of the board provided notice of the proposed change shall have been given in the notice of the meeting.

Proposed Change to the By-Laws of the Ninth Infantry Division Association

Amend Paragraph 22, the third sentence, by deleting the word "need" and adding the word "shall", so that the sentence will read: "None of the other officers shall be members of the Board of Governors."

Submitted by John J. Clouser,
Jan. 20, 1983

THE OCTOFOIL
Form 2579 should be sent to
412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087
Octofoil Associated Editors
Walter O'Keeffe and Daniel Quinn

National Officers
President
Emil Langer
5 Brentwood Dr.
Morris Plains, N.J. 07950

Vincent Guglielmino, 1st V.P.
114 Charles Street
Floral Park, N.Y. 11001

Elmer Wagner, 2nd V.P.
2833 Hotchkiss Rd.
Bay City, Mi 48706

Ronald Murphy, 3rd V.P.
44 Strawberry Lane
Scituate, Ma. 02066

Harrison Daysh
Judge Advocate
4303 Carriage Court
Kinsington, Md. 20795

Thomas Boyle Treasurer
39 Hall Avenue
Somerville, Mass. 02144

Daniel Quinn, Secretary
412 Gregory Avenue
Weehawken, N.J. 07087

Honorary Member Emeritus

Rev. Edward Connors

Board Member Emeritus

The official publication of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. Single copy price is 25 cents per issue or by mail \$1.50 per year payable in advance when dues are paid. Dues are \$5.00 per year with \$1.50 of the \$5.00 earmarked for the issues of The Octofoil. Members should notify the National Secretary, Daniel Quinn, 412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, N.J. of any change in address.

Published five times yearly, May June July, - Aug Sept Oct, - Nov-Dec, Jan-Feb, Mar-April by and for the members of the Ninth Infantry Division Association. News items, feature stories, photographs and art material from members will be appreciated. Every effort will be made to return photographs and art work in good condition.

An extract from the certificate of incorporation of the 9th Infantry Division Association reads: "This Association is formed by the officers and men of the 9th Infantry Division in order to perpetuate the memory of our fallen comrades, to preserve the esprit de corps of the division, to assist in promoting an everlasting world peace exclusively by means of educational activities and to serve as an information bureau to former members of the 9th Infantry Division."

Copy must be received on or before the 15th of each month to guarantee publication on the 20th.

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N.J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967.

Volume XXXVIII

Publication Number 402820

Number 1

Jan-Feb 1983

1983 Reunion Detroit July 21, 22, 23

Deadline for Scholarship Applicants is Near

THE MEMORIAL FUND OF THE 9TH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION Scholarship Information

The Memorial Fund of the Ninth Infantry Division Association was established by the members of the association to commemorate the memory of their comrades who paid the supreme sacrifice in battle. As a part of this fund the association established a scholarship program. Scholarships are awarded each year to relatives of men who served in The Ninth Infantry Division. Each scholarship is for one year.

ELIGIBILITY FOR SCHOLARSHIP APPLICATION

A person who wishes to apply for a scholarship must be related to a man who served with The Ninth Infantry Division. Children of former members of the division will be given first consideration, but children of men killed in combat given first preference. Applicants who are not children of former members of the division will not be considered unless no child of a former member qualifies.

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

The following procedures must be followed by those wishing to apply for the scholarships:

1. Send a letter of application, written in expository form, to the chairman of the scholarship committee stating the following: name, address, age, and sex of the applicant; name, address, and occupation of the applicant's parents or guardians; the name and address of the secondary school the applicant is attending or has attended and graduated; the name and address of the college the applicant expects to attend; the vocational goal of the applicant; and the name of and degree of relationship to a former member of the division. The unit and dates of service in the division of the former member must be included.
2. A transcript of the applicant's high school record must be included with the letter of application. The transcript must include at least the first seven semesters of the applicant's record.
3. The applicant must have a counselor or principal of the high school, he or she is attending write a letter of recommendation to the chairman of the scholarship committee.
4. The applicant must take the PSAT which is given every October. The applicant must see that the results of the PSAT are sent to the chairman of the scholarship committee. These results may be included with the high school transcript or sent to the chairman from the College Entrance Examination Board. The SAT of the CEEB may be submitted in lieu of the PSAT.
5. THE APPLICATION MUST BE SENT TO THE CHAIRMAN OF THE SCHOLARSHIP COMMITTEE BY MARCH 15. Applications received after March 15 will not be considered.
6. All applicants must accept the decision of the Scholarship Committee as final.
7. Information to determine financial need will be requested by the Scholarship Committee after the applications have been considered.
8. Recipients of the scholarships may apply for renewal of the scholarship each year. A copy of the student's college grades, a financial statement, and a letter requesting renewal of the scholarship should be sent to the chairman by March 15.
9. All applications must be sent to: John J. Clouser, Scholarship Chairman, Ninth Infantry Division Association, Rt. 4 Box 50A Crystal River, FL 32629.

Taps Sounded

There is no Death!
What seems so is transition
This life of Mortal breath
Is but a suburb of the life
elysian
Whose portal we call
death.

Ruggero Costanzo
K Co. 47th Inf.
Michael Laurito
H Co 60th Inf.
Luie E. Driskell
Hq. 39th Inf.
Thomas M. Egan
47th Hq. Sp. Troops
John Kirkup
3rd Bn. 39th Inf.
Emil Radic
K Co. 39th Inf.
Joseph Casey
Hq. 60th Inf.
Col. Ralph Edgar
Co A 39th Inf.

It is with saddened heart we announce the passing of these comrades who have answered their last roll call.

May they rest in peace. To their loved ones we extend our deepest sympathy.

60th Inf. H Co
MRS. FLORENCE LAURITO
185 Eagle St.
Fredonia, N.Y. 14063

Dear Members of the 9th Division Assn.: It is with a great deal of sorrow that I inform you of the death of my husband, Michael Laurito, on Jan. 4, 1983 after an illness of about 2 months with leukemia. We spent many lovely vacations with the 9th reunions. Our most recent one being in Ft. Braff and also the Memorial weekends in Worcester. Mike always enjoyed any contact he had with his fellow friends of the 9th and he made many new friends as did I. Also we would like to take the opportunity to thank you for the assistance my daughter received through your scholarship program.

Al Bravin (47th Infantry) wanted to share the following Prayer with our members. The author is unknown and the prayer was sent to Al when his wife passed away in 1973.

A PRAYER FOR THOSE WHO LIVE ALONE

I live along, dear Lord;
stay by my side.
In all my daily needs be
Thou my guide.
Grant me good health;
for that, indeed, I pray
To carry on my work from
day-to-day.
Keep pure my mind, my
thoughts, my every deed.
Let me be kind, unselfish
in my neighbor's need.
Spare me from fire, from
flood, malicious tongues,
From thieves, from fears
and evil-ones.
If sickness or an accident
befall,
Then humbly, Lord, I pray
hear Thou my call;
And when I am feeling low
or in despair,
Lift up my heart and help
me in my prayer.
I live alone, dear Lord—
yet have no fear,
Because I feel Thy Pres-
ence ever near.

AMEN!



Attention: Company B 39th Infantry

My local paper carried the story of the upcoming 38th Annual Reunion of the ninth infantry division. I am writing with a specific request pertaining to my brother who served with the ninth infantry in France. Unfortunately, he was wounded on September 1, 1944 near Trelon, France and died on September 4.

His name was Edward Weiner (born February 3, 1925) and was attached to the 272 Infantry, Company A. He served with that group in Biloxi, Miss. (Camp Shelby) then was sent to France either in June or July, 1944, joined the 9th Company B 39th Infantry. The last time I saw him alive was in February, 1944, when he was married. The next we heard from him was by mail from Europe. Unfortunately, whatever we knew after that was from his letters. But we never knew of anything he went through until his death.

Simply, my request is this: would there be any way to find out anything about his life from June-September 1, 1944 from anyone who served with him in France? More specifically, could we find anyone who might throw some more light upon his last hours on earth? All the War Department said was "... wounded in action near Trelon" (which is near Hirson, on the way into Belgium.)

He is now buried in Cedar Park Cemetery, Emerson, New Jersey in a plot of the Jewish War Veterans of America. But I have always wondered about his last days. Your reunion notice has reawakened this interest. I would appreciate any way in which you might help in answering this request.

Thank you. Sincerely,
Bernard Weiner
35 Trinity Avenue
Spring Valley, N.Y. 10977

P.S. His home address was last recorded as 1297 Hoe Avenue, Bronx, N.Y.C. Prior to that we lived at 851 Fox Street, Bronx.

Editors note: The secretaries office has written to Edward Weiner's brother, after checking our files and history of the unit in "8 Stars to Victory". They were rough days for the 39th Infantry, in the early part of September 1944. Edward is listed as DOW (died of wounds) and we were hoping that someone from Company B 39th Infantry would remember him and write a letter of condolences and a few words of Edward's last days.

NINTH INFANTRY DIVISION ASSOCIATION MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

Dan Quinn, National Secretary, 9th Infantry Division Assn.
412 Gregory Ave., Weehawken, New Jersey 07087

Enclosed please find 'dues for:

Name Serial No.
Street Address
City Zone State

I was a member of:

Battery; Company; Regiment; 9th Div

I wish to sign up for the following:

Regular Member, per year \$5.00 ☐
Donation Memorial Scholarship Fund ☐
THREE-YEAR MEMBER \$13.00 ☐
Life Membership \$50.00 ☐
Ladies' Auxiliary Member \$ 2.00 ☐

Decals \$.50 ☐
60th Infantry History \$ 2.00 ☐

THE TIME HAS COME FOR AN EMERGENCY FUND

I'm sure we are all aware of the fact that any sickness that requires hospitalization today is very expensive and that not all of us today can afford or the premiums to have enough coverage for a hospital "vacation".

Traumatic Experience

One of our members recently went thru that traumatic experience and on the verge of losing his home, had nowhere to turn and in desperation contacted a few "OLD RELIABLES". A few phone calls & personal contacts brought the old spirit to life and one "OLD RELIABLE" faces Christmas with a much happier outlook and relief knowing there will be a roof over his head. I wish you could have shared with me his voice as he expressed his thanks to those who came to his aid. I couldn't help but think that "there but for the love of God go I".

Unique Group

In today's economy the amount needed wasn't very much but it may as well have been a million dollars to the guy down on his luck. Many of us have said what we heard General Westmoreland repeat recently, "our's is a unique group of men", let's make it more so by somehow building an emergency fund for the future. I'm sure we have many men who would be glad to help such a cause. Should we not give consideration to offering help to one of our own? A look through my check book tells me we should.

I would like our membership and fellow members of the board of governors to mull this over as I plan to bring this proposal up at our next meeting.

Survey

On another matter I would like to survey the membership as to how the reception would be of having a convention in central Florida in April, May, September or October as the weather during those months is much more bearable than mid-summer when the temperature often goes to 100 degrees or over. I think most of us are or soon will be retired and would appreciate visiting the many Florida attractions in the cooler weather. Just a 13c post card to me by as many members as possible is all we of the FLORIDA CHAPTER need to offer a most beautiful and memberable convention in '85.

Thanking you and the general membership in advance I am,

Sincerely

Henry Santos
9811 N Connechuset Rd.
Tampa, FL 33617

Please credit the following chapter:

Philly-Delaware-Valley ☐ Greater New York ☐
Illinois ☐ Washington, D.C. ☐
New England ☐ Michigan ☐
Ohio ☐ Fayetteville-
Florida ☐ Fort Bragg, N.C. ☐

MICHIGAN HAPPENINGS

Sorry for missing the dead line for the last issue of THE OCTOFOIL. After the Christmas party the bug bit me hard and I was unable to function and the result was that the deadline slipped by me while I was on my back in bed. Things are looking up now so it should be business as expected for the balance of the year.

Install Officers

First I must report that at the Christmas Party we paused from the festivities long enough to install officers for 1983. William "Bill" Andrews is our President, Tom Saunders 1st Vice President, Bill Zimmerman 2nd Vice President, Rodger E. Alsgaard Secretary, Elmer Wagner Treasurer, Donald Lewis Adjutant and Floyd Hennessey as Chaplain/Historian.

The party was a gala evening of fun, food and dance. A good time was had by all. The weather was bad but that did not keep sixty-five members and guest from having a good time. Don and Helen Lewis chaired the party and were ably assisted with the setting up and cleaning up by members of the chapter.

Before the party ended Elmer Wagner announced that we would kick the new year off by holding our February meeting at Das Michigan Haus on February 26th. Das Michigan Haus is located in Bay City, Mich. and gives those members from the north and Thumb area an opportunity to make a party without having to drive to far in what is often very bad February weather.

While on the subject of meetings I am happy to announce to all reunion lovers that the Michigan Outstate will be held in October. The Illinois Chapter offered to host it this year. Charlie Koskie assumed the responsibility of hosting the gathering of the troops. He felt that the Michigan Chapter would be having their hands full with the National Reunion being held in Detroit. I know the Illinois faithful will do an excellent job in their planning of this event which becomes more popular each year.

Produced New Member

Elmer Wagner has sent notices to all newspapers telling of the upcoming convention in July. That notice has produced one new member for the association. Answering a knock on my door I found a very robust looking gentleman standing there who introduced himself as Alex W. Hubbard a former soldier of the Ninth Division. In talking with Alex I found that we had worked in the same plant before the war, sent to Camp Custer and then on to Mineral Wells, Texas for Basic Training. Alex was sent on to Fort Bragg while I stayed behind to be assigned to Cadre. Alex was in C Co. 60th Inf. and spent a good deal of his time as a prisoner of war. Any of you who may remember Alex can write him at 6318 W. State Rd. Vassar, Mi. 48768.

Well set your sights on Detroit. Read your Octofoil and send me your request for strip tickets. From the date this letter is to be published there will only be 150 days to July 21st. How many times did you say "When I get out of this mans army I will never stand in line again." So why do it at the convention when Pre-Registration will eliminate that problem.

I will look forward to seeing you all in Detroit.

Rodger E. Alsgaard
Sec'y.

ILLINOIS CHAPTER NEWS

Holidays are over

Now that the holidays are over and things are quieting down, it's time to get busy and get some news in about the Illinois Chapter. Not too much has been going on since our last newsletter. We did have our Annual Mini reunion in Angola last October with a terrific turnout. There were approximately 87 people at the Holiday Inn in Angola, Indiana. We had beautiful weather and a great time renewing old friendships. The regulars from Illinois attended including the Koskies, Clarks, Andersons, Winkelmanns, Gheres, Hellers, Clausers, Grays, Paulis and the Belmontes. Quite a few Michigan members showed up but we did miss the Colliers from St. Louis and many others whose names escape us at this time. We held an annual raffle which was won by a Michigan member. Our next reunion will be October 21-22, 1983 in Angola and all are welcome.

MEETING AND ELECTION

During the mini reunion, the Illinois Chapter held their monthly meeting and elections of officers took place. After four years of holding the office of President, Mike Belmonte turned the gavel over to Larry Ghere. Mike became Vice-President and the rest of the officers remained the same, Gordon Anderson, Secretary; Chuck Koskie, Treasurer; Dave Heller, Chaplain; Paul Clark, Sergeant at Arms; and Bob Winkelman and Louis Gray, Trustees. Good luck to all the officers.

PLEASED TO HAVE

Our Christmas Party was held on December 11th in the home of Chuck and Irma Koskie. We were pleased to have former Illinois members Bob and Beryl Pappas of Florida join us as did John and Helen Clauser. The "old reliables" were there including the Hennemuths, Clarks, Gheres, Hellers, Paulis, Belmonts, Faynors (who by the way are Grandparents), the Swankes, Louis Gray and we were pleased and surprised to have Cecil Lacie join us. Cecil is the wife of Joe Lacie who passed away a few years ago.

DEEPEST SYMPATHY

We also missed having Roger Costanza at our Christmas Party. Roger was quite ill and on December 27th we received word that Roger passed away from cancer. He left a wife and one son and daughter. Our deepest sympathy to his family. A collection will be made from the Illinois chapter members and will be forwarded to the Scholarship Fund in his memory.

DON'T MISS THE SNOW

We have been fortunate so far this year to be having a mild winter and don't miss the snow at all. All the retired members are especially pleased they don't have the extra burden. Bob Winkelman finds odd jobs to do. Chuck as his grandchildren and home in Michigan to keep him busy. Lou Gray is busy getting ready to move to his home in Wadsworth, Wisconsin. Paul Clark is counting the days till he'll retire and yours truly might consider retiring the end of the year.

Respectfully submitted,
Mike and Ann Belmonte
1161 South Lombard
Oak Park, Illinois
60304

One thing you could say about our icy roads this winter — they haven't been this smooth in years.

MICHIGAN-ILLINOIS OUTSTATE MEETING

The Sixth Annual Outstate Reunion of the Michigan-Illinois Chapters was held in Angola on October 20, and 21st. These mini reunions are a great way for the two chapters to get together to meet and talk over all the old times on a smaller scale than the regular annual reunions. Our numbers increase each year and a good time is had by all. This past year we had approximately 87 people between the two chapters, some Indiana members and some Ohio members. We also had Doc and Only Reichel of Mifflinburg, Pa.

MEET IN CP

Some of the couples start arriving Friday evening and meet in the CP room where there is no lack of liquid refreshment and snacks. This year some of the good ladies brought in food and there was no need to go out to supper which gave us more time to visit. The Holiday Inn furnishes us with a large room for our CP and it is very comfortable. Saturday is spent chatting and shopping in the town of Angola. There are some very nice little stores and a delicious bakery with reasonably priced goods.

LUCKY WINNER

Both the Michigan and Illinois Chapters hold a raffle at the reunion. Jenny Alsgaard was the lucky winner of both raffles. Michigan had a beautifully hand-carved wooden battery operated clock of the State of Michigan and the Illinois Chapter raffled a Zenith table radio. This raffle takes place at the buffet dinner served in the Holiday Inn Main dining room.

ILLINOIS NEXT HOST

The next mini reunion is scheduled for October 21 and 22, 1983 at the Holiday Inn in Angola Indiana. Rooms will be \$32.40 for a single and \$39.60 for a double. The reunion will be hosted by the Illinois Chapter this year with Chuck Koskie and John Clauser as Co-Chairmen. Anyone interested in attending can contact Chuck at 4334 Hirschburg Schiller Park, Illinois or John Clauser in Florida.

ANXIOUS TO CONTINUE

The Michigan and Illinois Chapters are anxious to continue these reunions and wish to extend an invitation to any 9th Division Member to join us during that time. The weather is generally beautiful, the company's great — so why not come and join us.

Florida Gators

The Florida Gators 5th semi annual meeting will be at the Sheraton St. John's Hotel in downtown Jacksonville, Fl. Arrival date is April 15 and depart on April 17, 1983. There will be a couple of important items of concern to our Florida comrades to be discussed. Election of new officers for the year 1983-1984 are to be held. Due to unforeseen circumstances, the April meeting has to be held in the northern part of the state once again. I certainly hope to see a big crowd and lots of new members.

Robert Pappas (President)
738-C518 Box 175
New Port Richey, Fl. 33552

What Green? Where?

"Golf was once a rich man's sport. Now there are millions of poor players."

—Will Rogers, Quote

ADVANCE REGISTRATION BY MAIL

In 1981 National, in planning the 1982 reunion, conceived the plan of PRE-REGISTRATION of members going to Fayetteville, N.C. The plan proved to be very successful. This year, in planning the 38th Annual Reunion to be held in Detroit, Mi. on July 21-22-23, the Michigan Chapter is going to use the Pre-Registration concept to make your registering less of a last minute hassle on your arrival at the Westin Hotel.

We ask that you send your request for registration early. In so doing you will find your Name Tags, Strip Tickets and all other materials waiting for you at the Pre-Registration Desk upon your arrival.

You may order your strip tickets now by sending a check or money order to: Rodger E. Alsgaard 2834 Wynes St. Saginaw, Mi. 48602. Make the check payable to: 9th Infantry Division Association Reunion. Banquet tickets must be purchased before 4:00 P.M. July 21, 1983.

The strip tickets of \$42.00 per person include: Registration, Thursday Night Welcoming Party, the Friday Night Banquet and the Dance on Saturday Night.

PRE-REGISTRATION FORM

Your Name: _____

Unit Number: _____

Your Address: _____

Name of Spouse: _____

Widow of: _____

Please submit with your request for strip tickets to:

Rodger E. Alsgaard
2834 Wynes St.
Saginaw, Mich. 48602

Refunds will be given to those who through some unforeseen circumstance are unable to attend the reunion. Deadline for cut off date will be July 13, 1983.

You will handle your room reservations direct to the hotel.

9th Infantry Division Association
July 21, 22, 23, 1983

Please Reserve Westin Hotel Accommodations

Name _____ Arrival Date _____
Unit _____ Departure Date _____
Address _____ Check in 2 p.m. Check out 1 p.m.
City _____ State _____ Zip _____
Telephone number _____

Make check or money order payable to the Westin Hotel, send to Reservations Department, The Westin Hotel, Renaissance Center, Detroit, Michigan 48243.

Single (one person) \$59.00
Twin (two persons) \$59.00
Double (two persons) \$59.00

Reservations must be received by July 6, 1983 to guarantee convention rates.

Include first nights deposit to confirm reservation or use American Express or Diners Club credit card to guarantee your reservation.

Card No. _____
Expiration Date _____
(Refundable if reservation is cancelled 48 hours prior to arrival with cancellation number from Hotel).

The above special 59 dollar rates apply from 4 days prior to 4 days after the convention.

REUNION JOURNAL

The Michigan Chapter is making a limited program booklet for the 1983 Reunion of 20 pages plus the front and back, due to the high printing costs. We would like to make it up of full page chapter ads, and then on the last pages we would place the Chapter Boosters, name and unit. The full page ads will be \$50.00 and the Booster ads will be \$2.00 each, so we will need all the booster help we can get.

The donations should be sent to Rodger Alsgaard, Secretary, Michigan Chapter 9th Infantry Division Association, 2834 Wynes Street, Saginaw, Michigan 48603. Make check payable to: 9th Infantry Division Association Reunion.

Reunion Parking

During the reunion our designated parking area is the outdoor parking Lot "B" just east of the Hotel. The parking fee is one dollar (\$1.00) per day with in and out privileges. When arriving at the hotel entrance identify yourself as with the 9th Infantry Division convention, unload the car and then park it in lot "B".

Deadline for copy of the next issue of the Octofoil will

be APRIL 20th

Westy and C.B.S.

John Ryan sends this story written by Herbert Clark another member of the 60th Infantry. Herbert not only wrote the articles but owns the newspaper.

"Duty, Honor, Country"

Gen. William Childs Westmoreland does not take lightly the words "Duty, Honor, Country." To him—and many others—these words have meaning. They typify that which is best in those who graduate from the United States Military Academy. His honor, as an officer, gentleman and citizen, has been questioned.

Libel Suit

The basis for the libel suit, in which General Westmoreland seeks \$120 million from the Columbia Broadcasting System, is complicated. It concerns whether or not CBS charged General Westmoreland with being a part of a "conspiracy" to falsify Intelligence reports. More important, it concerns whether such a conspiracy existed.

Having some familiarity with how estimates of enemy strength are compiled and the difficulty in establishing accuracy under the best of conditions, and have known General Westmoreland as a regimental commander and later as chief of staff of the army it is difficult to believe that such a conspiracy existed. This, however, may be influenced more than a little by the nostalgia that surrounds "our general." CBS, by editing and presentation, used General Westmoreland to prove its case. The general feels badly used. Most of those who have even a passing acquaintance with him would agree.

Ideal Aide

If General Westmoreland had been born in the 1840's he would have made an ideal aide to Robert E. Lee. There remains a good deal of the Carolina gentleman in Westmoreland. There is an almost instinctive feeling that here is what is meant by "officer and gentlemen." At the end of World War II there was no doubt among those who had served with him that Westmoreland would eventually become chief of staff of the army.

In between was Korea and Vietnam and the great opportunity. What could have led to the presidency came to an end with the belief that the United States had lost in Southeast Asia. General Westmoreland believes that there could have been a better conclusion to one of the most tragic episodes in American history.

Prescribed Life

A professional army officer leads a prescribed life. His success and reputation rides on events that may never take place, then only on a single throw of the dice. The knowledge of his trade, that of leading men in battle, is acquired in that most introspective of institutions, the army. He is always under scrutiny, always being judged. Under such circumstances a personal sense of honor is both an anchor and a shield. More than competence is needed, there must be assurance that a man can be depended upon, that he can be trusted.

Living by these rules

General Westmoreland has spent most of his life in this atmosphere, living by these rules. There is pain in the knowledge that one has been charged with defeat; there is outrage in the charge that one's personal honor was sacrificed as a part of that alleged defeat. Not to be allowed to present one's case makes the acquisition more galling. It is not hard to understand why General Westmoreland has gone to the courts.

Deal of tragedy

In such tragedy—and there is a great deal of tragedy in rise and fall of talented men—there is usually irony. In this instance it is television. Had it not been for television, and the fact that America saw its first war at the dinner table, there might have been another conclusion to the conflict in Southeast Asia. Certainly, it would not have ended after the Tet offensive. General Westmoreland might have had his chance to destroy the North Vietnamese army that had gambled on a bold stroke, one that caused Americans to become sick of their commitment.

Fair hearing

Instead of a symbol of victory, Westmoreland became a symbol of defeat. That the fault might lay elsewhere, with Presidents Kennedy and Johnson, with the Pacific command that was superior to this, was not important. For every loss there must be a scapegoat.

Now, adding what seems insult to injury, it is television that comes back to challenge General Westmoreland. Not this time on his competence as a military leader, but on his personal honor. It is understandable that he wants a fair hearing on the question.

26th Field Artillery Reporting

On Monday, January 10, my daughter was watching television. It was about 4:30 in the afternoon. I do not think that it was, at that time, being broadcast live. The original of this program may have been shown a long time ago. The program was called REAL PEOPLE.

Unable to read our daily paper at that time I too, started to watch the program. At that time was a film showing P O W's at their convention in Las Vegas. One veteran seemed to be getting more exposure than the rest. That made me pay a little closer attention. His home address is unknown. What I did notice was that on his cap he had pinned a Regimental Crest of the 47th Infantry Regiment.

I have seen the 47th pin hundreds of times so I think that I am right.

If he was a member of your regiment or a member of our organization you might like to print a few words in the OCTOFOIL.

Joe McKenzie
95 Washington Ave.
Waltham, Ma 02154

Editors note: The man in the TV show is our own Marty Bergman Company E 47th Infantry. Marty was captured at El Guettar in March 1943.

1983 Reunion
July 21, 22, 23

Soldiers Families Meet after 37 years.



Michael Sorace

Writing from the front lines in World War II, the battle-weary Sgt. Michael Sorace told his brother, Frank that he had "aged some 30-odd years" in his 30 months overseas. Mike was with Company D 39th.

"My brain, body, heart and bones ache," Sorace wrote. "It seems as though there are only two ways of getting a rest — one is death and the other is to be wounded."

Weeks later, on Jan. 21, 1945, Sorace was killed in the Battle of the Bulge. He was 31.

Now, 37 years later, Belgians and Americans remembered him at a get-together in Queens.

After corresponding by mail for more than three decades, a Belgian couple who befriended Sorace during the war flew to New York last week to meet Sorace's family in person.

The couple, Henry and Gisele Lacasse, embraced Sorace's sister, Antoinette Tirella, and her husband, James, in an emotional scene Friday at Kennedy Airport.

"It's as if we are more than friends," Mrs. Lacasse said this week as she sat across the table from Mrs. Tirella at her home in Howard Beach. "We are more like sisters than friends."

On Sunday, the two couples joined Sorace's 66-year-old brother, John, at Sorace's grave at St. John's Cemetery in Middle Village.

"I couldn't stop crying," said John Sorace, who lives in North Babylon. "I kept thinking of all the nice things (the Lacasses) did for my brother. Having them here is like a miracle."

Henry Lacasse met Michael Sorace at a bar in Verviers, Belgium, in late 1944 and brought him home. "We were very thankful to have an American in our home," said Mrs. Lacasse, recalling the Nazi occupation of Belgium that lasted until September, 1944. "And Mike was very thankful to have a friendly place to go."

"Mike was a very special person," she added. "He was very kind, very polite and very bright. I will never forget him."

On Jan. 21, 1945, Sorace ate lunch at the Lacasse home, then left to rejoin the war. His Belgian friends never saw him again.

When she didn't hear from Michael for several weeks, Mrs. Lacasse wrote a letter to his family's home in Brooklyn—thus triggering the long trans-Atlantic correspondence that climaxed last week.

Because the Lacasses don't have a telephone, they never even heard the Tirellas' voices until they arranged the trip over a friend's phone a few weeks ago.

While the burdens of raising children and the high cost of travel delayed it for 37 years, both couples knew they would some day meet face to face.

"I knew that I had to go to New York before I die," said Mrs. Lacasse.

Here's to Paul for the Record

Just a Numbness

It was Jaaskela's dedication to work that killed him. "He had heart problems," Mrs. Jaaskela said, "and he shouldn't have been working so hard."

At first she was just numb. She'd find herself wandering around the farmhouse looking for her husband, sometimes with her pocketbook under her arm as if they were going to the store.

Then when the funeral director came, she was so upset she forgot to check whether her husband's war record was taken down for the obituary.

Out of a quiet, modest, hard-working life, Jaaskela was proud of two things: his farm and his war record. And the only time he got his name in the newspaper, his service wasn't mentioned.

Mrs. Jaaskela felt terrible. "I couldn't sleep. And friends were saying that he was watching me and knew what I'd done. I was so upset at the time. It was just a mistake."

Rules Are Rules

She called the funeral director, who explained that the newspaper could not run the obituary again. But Mrs. Jaaskela is a farmer's wife — tenacious and determined. She was not going to let her husband's record go unremarked. She wrote directly to the newspaper. She explained that she couldn't sleep for thinking about her mistake and begged that something be done. She said that when you "lose a loved one ... you're in a dream world and really don't do things properly." The farmer's wife pulled out all the stops. She offered money and said she had taken the paper regularly for years. "except when money was tight."

Now the numbness is passing, and Mrs. Jaaskela is beginning to feel the grief of losing a husband she has loved almost 40 years. She has gone out by herself once or twice, but found she got "weepy" and went back to the farm. She is a proud woman and doesn't want people to see her crying.

Impressive List

For Mrs. Jaaskela, here's what was left out of the obituary.

Paul H. Jaaskela was awarded the European, African and Middle Eastern Campaign Medals, a Purple Heart with two oak leaf clusters, the World War II Victory Medal, three Bronze Service Stars, a Bronze Star Medal, the Combat Infantry Badge, the Good Conduct Medal and a presidential unit citation. He also received four-raggers from the French and Belgian governments. He served in the 9th Infantry Division, 47th Regiment, Company G.

The funeral director was right. It is not the policy of the newspaper to run obituaries over again, but in some cases you've got to bend the rules. There are some people who deserve it. Jaaskela, a dedicated soldier, farmer and husband, sounds like one of them.

Mrs. Jaaskela was delighted. "Oh gee, I'm going to be able to sleep again," she said.



Marty Roach sent this article from the Evening Gazette, Worcester, Massachusetts printed on January 17, 1983. We were touched deeply by this obituary that could be applied to many of our members. James Dempsey a staff writer for the Evening Gazette is to be congratulated for a job well done.

It was April 1944 when Paul H. Jaaskela wrote his fiancée Mary Bobka that he was being sent to Europe with the 9th Infantry, so if they wanted to get married they'd better do it quick.

The 21-year-old Miss Bobka took the train down to Fort Benning in Columbus, Ga., became Mrs. Jaaskela, said goodbye to her new husband and returned to her family in Marlboro.

For a year the wife worried, reading reports of battles, wondering and waiting. When Jaaskela came back, he had been wounded three times and didn't like to talk about his experiences. It was decades before he started opening up and reliving some of the memories.

The couple farmed on Sugar Road in Bolton after the war, working their 17 acres from before dawn until late in the evening. They experimented with corn, potatoes and beans, but finally found that butternut squash brought the best price.

It Wasn't Easy

Not that it was easy. Picking squash is backbreaking work, and theirs was a proud, quiet, hardworking life. They didn't go out much, except for birthdays and anniversaries. "It was days of hard work, and not much time for anything else," Mrs. Jaaskela said. "You've got to hoe and spray and dust. It's a tremendous job. You've got to work to do farming right. You have to put into the soil if you want to get returns." Even working hard, there were many times when there just wasn't enough money coming in. Jaaskela worked two jobs until the farm established itself.

As the years passed, Jaaskela began to reminisce about his days in Europe. "All of a sudden he started to open up about it," she said. "We'd be watching Robin Hood on television, and he'd say, 'I went through Sherwood Forest.' I said, 'you never told me that.' He said, 'It's beautiful there.' "Before that he didn't even like to look at books about the war, because it brought back such horrible memories."

Planning Trip to Europe

The couple planned a trip to Europe when the farmer retired in spring. He wanted to sell off the stock of squash before putting the farm up for sale. They talked and planned excitedly, applying for passports and mapping out the places they wanted to see.

Then Jaaskela died Dec. 12.

"I heard him sigh beside me," Mrs. Jaaskela said. "It was a tremendous sigh. I went back to sleep and then woke up when the alarm went off at a quarter to five. I knew he was dead, because he always answered the alarm. He was a good farmer."

"I never felt so alone."

Jaaskela had a bad arm from his last wound, when he was caught in machine-gun fire in Geich, Germany, in March 1945. He was in a hospital for three months and recovered well. "God was watching over him," Mrs. Jaaskela said. "There were many boys that didn't come home at all."

Tip of Hat

MEMORIAL FUND

Edwin E. Brewer
Irving Terchak
James W. Barr
Col. Louis Gershenow
Harry W. Kenney
Warren Fedder

The association is ever grateful to these members who remembered the Memorial Fund.

We salute you.

In Retrospect on

Nineteen Hundred Eighty-Two January:

Reunion with long lost sister with all four sisters and brother together for first time in over forty years. (It was great), ran well into February.

March-April:

Had several "Snow-bird" visitors from "up north."

May

Flew to Italy to revisit the ANZIO-NETTUNO beach-head of WW 2 fame with a tour of other areas whose memories were less than pleasant. We were forty-six old "GIs" and YOUNG wives. The trip included a 3 day tour of Rome where I was very fortunate in that I have a pretty good picture of Pope John Paul 2 as he rode past. We also visited Tivoli, (just rode thru Napoli) Casino, Pompei, Isle of Capri, Sorrento and a few other little villages we passed thru in WW 2.

June

We left to pick up where we had left off on my quest to visit the forty-eight original states and photograph the capitol buildings plus the Canadian capitals. First stopping for a convention at Fayetteville-Fort Bragg, N.C. and a too short a visit in R.I. By the time we got to Quebec it was July 24 with the west coast and the 15 remaining states plus those in Canada many miles away. The result was we still have Arizona, California, Nevada, Oregon and Wash. to go. Like the Red Sox, maybe next year. We also visited relatives and friends along the way arriving home 10 weeks later, September 5th, still have some things that have to be put away.

November

Drove to Worcester to attend Fr. Connors' annual memorial mass, a short visit to R.I. arriving home 10 days after we left.

We now have more pictures, slides and a nice collection of rocks and stones from many states and several countries to show you, come on down!!!

15th Engrs.

HENRY SANTOS
9811 N. Connechuset Rd.
Tampa, Fl. 33617

47th Inf. Co. M.

EDWARD S. LITTLE,
233 Schuylkill Ave.
Tamaqua, Pa. 18252

Enclosed is my dues for membership in the association and hope to see all of you in Michigan this summer.

15th Engrs.

MAURICE TOUGAS
111 Aetna St.
Central Falls, R.I. 02863

Enclosed are my dues for 1983. I wish you and the association a Happy and prosperous New Year. Best regards to all.

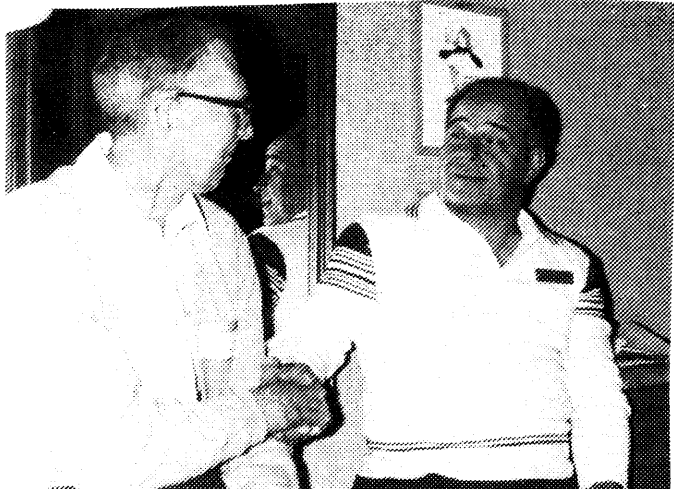
Someone has said that those who are "mentally and emotionally healthy" are those who have learned when to say Yes, when to say No, and when to say Whoopee! - Willard S. Karbill, M.D.

1983 Reunion

Detroit July 21, 22, 23



Illinois Chapter members and their wives are pictured at the Out-of-State meeting held by the Michigan-Illinois Chapters in Angola, Indiana on October 23, 1982.



Larry Ghore newly elected president of the Illinois Chapter receives congratulations from Mike Belmonte who held that office for four years.



Jake Krolo, C Bty, 34th F.A. sends this picture taken at a reunion that he thinks was in 1948 (which would be Philly). Jake's wife is in the stripe dress in the lower right hand corner and to her right is Jake. He writes "Maybe someone may be able to identify himself if for no other reason than to see how young she or he was and how beautiful and handsome they were in 1948".

Hqs. Div
WM. CARDOZA, SR.
17 Jones Terr. 3
Stoughton, Ma. 02072

Time that I sat down and dropped a line to mail call. Received the Nov-Dec Octofoil and enjoyed reading it, especially the story Father Connors wrote. Thought it was very impressive. He really tells it like it is. God willing I'll be in Worcester come that time again, and hope to make the reunion also. My wife liked the Sheraton-Lincoln as it's a lot easier to get to. Hello to everyone.

60th Inf. A Co
ZANE M. GREY
1350 Fleetwood Dr. Apt. 221
Elgin, Ill.

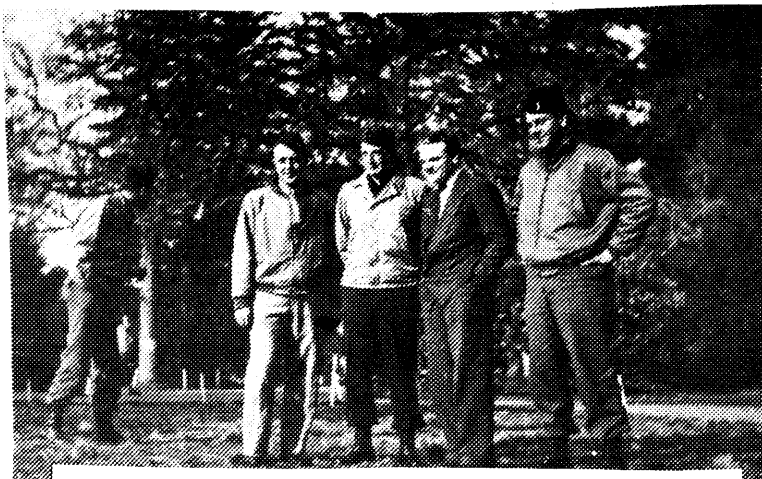
Thank you for your fast answer and returned information. I appreciate it very much. I have enclosed check for dues. My wife and I are both disabled but hope in some future date we will be able to meet. I also would like to meet some of the guys I knew from the 60th from Tent City to before we went overseas in different directions.

47th Inf. Co. B
JOHN MORGAN
1534 Hubbard St.
Pittsburgh, Pa. 15212

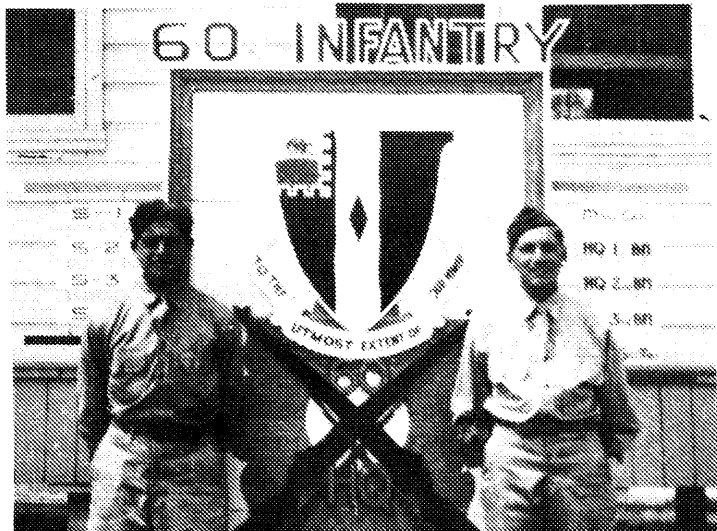
Enclosed is my check for 3 years dues. I received the Octofoil and wish to thank you for sending it. I believe that Mail Call is a good way to make contact with former friends. I often think of the many men and officers I knew in the 47th having been overseas with them for 27 months until captured across the Remagen Bridge, March 1945. Was in Stalag 12A Limburg, Germany, strafed by our Air Force while on a POW train after leaving there and liberated by the 9th Armored Div. I am retired from the Pittsburgh post office as a mail carrier after 32 years service.

26th F. A.
WILLIAM A. LEWIS, JR.
54 Hopewell Dr.
Struthers, Ohio 44471

Enclosed find check for 3 years. Didn't get a red address on my last Octofoil but I believe it is soon due. Enjoy every issue, keep up the good work. Best of everything for 1983.



Brighton Woods, England, 1944. James Cagney with (l-r) Lt. Wilks, Captain Geyer, Captain Larson, Jimmy, and Lt. Leopold. A story regarding this photo appears in Mail Call by Otto Geyer.



Mrs. Philip Krow widow of Philip Krow of Company I, 60th Infantry sends this picture of Phil and a buddy Sam Karper (left) when the 60th Infantry received a new insignia in Fort Bragg.



C. B. Baker of Johnson City, Tennessee sends these photos of the 1st Bn Medics 47th Infantry taken in Germany in May 1945. Back row — left to right — Deveraux, Captain Larimer, Shier and Phillips. Front row left to right: Lt. Hank Kucharski and Hong.



C.B. Baker sent also a picture taken in May 1945 of Company C 47th Infantry. Back row — left to right — Axelsen, Brooks, Dye, Pollinger, Mazzia, Mizia and Confalone. Front row left to right: Currie, Forta, Rasmussen, Chatto, Henderson, Hursh, Provett and Tesno.

Interest in Trip to North Africa Mounting

Boardman F. (Woody) Lockwood
DAVIS JACOBS TRAVEL SERVICE
240 Trumbull Street
Hartford, Connecticut 06103

Yes, I/we are interested in participating in this tour. Please send detailed itinerary to:

Mr./Mrs. _____

Address: _____

Phone: _____

Former 9th Infantry Division Unit: _____

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call Column?

TO "B" (47th.) OR NOT TO "B". LETTERS 'BOUT "3 'GUYS'.

Letter #1. — The following article appeared in the "Forum Quarterly" a military service oriented periodical.

"On Jan. 18, 2019 veteran Harvey Rotcefed, age 99, as last survivor became the sole beneficiary of the assets of the now defunct 9th Infantry Division Association, a veteran organization made up of members of the 9th. Division serving in World War 2. 1941-1945.

Sgt. Rotcefed, a native of Cleveland, makes his home at Great Pines Home for the Aged in Akron, Ohio. He was located through the efforts of Abbott, Marston & Dean. Attorney's for the Organization.

His son, Raymond, drew national attention as an anti-war Viet Nam activist in the 60's, necessitating his move to Canada until receiving amnesty by decree from the late President James Carter, 1976-1980.

Later, Raymond's son, also refused to serve his country during the "99 Day War" with Cuba, a provoked conflict resulting in overwhelming defeat and destruction of Cuba along with the demise of the aged Raoul Castros' reign.

Ironically, only ten day's after Sgt. Rotcefed was the recipient of these funds, he died. His newly-acquired estate will be passed on to his son — and grandson!!

LETTER #2.

Excerpts from among questionable court decisions appearing in the publication "21st. Century Justice."

On Sept. 2, 2014, Martin Haden instituted legal action on behalf of his grandfather, veteran Wallace Hadin, 91, a member of the 9th, Infantry Division Association, an organization made up of combat veterans, participating in 8 campaigns during World War 2. Action was to determine the status of survivorship and possible distribution of assets following the alledged, but unverified, demise of said organization.

Handicapped by a lack of direction supplied by the elder Hadin the search started with the State of Delaware, home of its Charter — then on to Boston, Mass. where more meaningful information was provided by the Garrison Bank Estates Department, trustees for the organizations' funds.

At this point it was learned that the last "Re-union" took place in 1998 (Ironically in New York City, where it all began back in 1946) due to diminishing attendance to the yearly event. The organizations' quarterly newspaper, "Octofoil" ceased publication late in 1999.

When the one year required search campaign failed to produce possible "eligibles" for the "last man" remuneration the case was referred to the Dept. of the Army. After a series of internal hearings it was determined that all assets and pertinent paraphernalia of the defunct organization be transferred to the "now" organization bearing its name!

LETTER #3.

Carl Martinez, writing for the Veterans Administration monthly "Bugle" submitted this human interest item based on a July 4th. happening in 2016.

It was a banner day at the V.A. hospital at Winston-Salem, N.C. when Dawkins & Bray,

representing the late organization of the 9th Infantry Division Association, joined by a small contingent of the present 9th. Infantry Division recently returned from active duty in Cuba, paid honor to the last living member of this post war veterans organization serving in 8 campaigns throughout 1941 - 1945.

Raeferd Johns, now 101 years old, received a rather extraordinary accumulation of funds of said organization, it was revealed.

"Capt. Jack," as he was affectionately called, has been hospitalized 12 years, markedly infirm — and blind. In the words of Mr. Martinez "he is alive — but not 'living'."

These highly fictional case examples are but three of innumerable possibilities we have "projected forward" relating to the final disposition of funds based on the "last man" ideology. — note: In Letter #1 - we find the recipients unworthy, Letter #2 basically undeserving and in #3 — unaware!

Whatever possessed the imaginative "founding fathers" of this organization to embark upon this "medieval" concept of survivorship we do not know, but like the laws of the land it obsolescence is not chiselled in granite, thus the consensus is this issue needs addressing.

We have a very unique organization — inspired by the desire to perpetuate long standing friendships along with honoring the "men we left behind." It's success and longevity can be attributed to a composite of good leadership and a supportive and active membership.

At this point in time let our priorities be "enjoyment for the many" who made the above possible — and not "the last hurrah" for a majority of one!!

Pat J. Morano
2208 Lincoln Way,
East. Chambers-
burg, Pa. 17201.

Art J. Stenzel
1815 Mariner Drive,
Apt. 174. Tarpon
Springs, Fla. 33589.

47th Inf. Co. G
JEROME SHAPIRO
739 W. 186th St.
New York, N.Y. 10033

The Christmas Party of the N.Y. Chapter was swell! Glad I could make it. My arthritic hands are improving as this letter demonstrates. I couldn't write much in 1981. Best regards to Ed Combs formerly E Co. 47th. I am trying to locate a few ex-raiders: Isidore Lehman Co. E., 47th, Arthur Gardiner, Co. G & 2nd Bn. Hq. Co. 47th. Any information of their whereabouts would be greatly appreciated. Best regards to all.

M.P.
JOHN T. WEBER
46 Bromfield St.
Quincy, Ma. 02170

Enclosed find dues to another year. I really enjoyed the latest issue of the Octofoil, somehow it seemed more full of interesting articles, etc. than usual. As for me I haven't done anything of interest to anyone. I like the poem by Mike Proccovic of K Co 47th, that boy is a poet. I think he should be named Poet Laureate of the 9th Division! Have been busily engaged watching Robert Mitchum winning the war. (Winds of War) Is that the same one we were in? I think I owe Jake Nailor and Wadalavage a letter, so this is to notify them that I haven't forgotten. Good Luck to every one.

60th Inf
JOSEPH POTTS
20 Elmwood Dr. RD 3
Newfield, N.J. 08344

Enclosed find dues for 1983. I wish everyone the best for the New Year, and to you Dan for the good work you are doing for the paper. I enjoy getting it.

60th Inf. E Co.
JOSEPH MCCLINTOCK
8 Jersey Ave.
Mahawh, N.J. 07430

I am enclosing my dues for the next 3 years. I am not very good at writing but my wife said I should drop a line. I remarried 12 years ago and my wife came from a town near Stolleberg called Nierderwurschnitz in the Erz. Maybe some of the fellows remember that part of the country after the war. She was a nurse in the German army and was taken prisoner of war. She later joined the American army and became a citizen of the USA. We have traveled overseas 6 times in 11 years. On these trips we visited many places I have been in the war and received the Bronze Star. I also visited Belgium where I swam the Meuse River when F Co took a beating and were cut off and half our men captured on the crossing to let the 47th regiment cross the next morning. In Monschau I took some pictures of the place E Co set up its field kitchen. If any fellows remember me of E Co and the 4th platoon I would enjoy hearing from them. On my last trip we stayed in a hotel in Monschau-Hofen called Sports Hotel run by a Mr. Brummer. He helped me to get a book written in German called "Hell in the Hurtgen Forest" in which E Co and the 9th Div is mentioned. Three years ago we visited 3 of my buddies from E Co, Art Euler, Robert Fix and Harvey Kneppel whom we keep in touch with. I read the Octofoil from cover to cover every time.

15th Engr. Bn.
TONY MADONNA
40 Orient Way
Worcester, Ma. 01604

It is dues time again so enclosed find check for 1983. I noticed in recent Octofoils that mail call has improved. More write-ins, more new members. It has also brought on a new interest. More GI's who served with the 9th are making contact with buddies of their unit. Getting together after an absence of many years. In fact I have heard from a few who are looking forward to Detroit. I am sorry I missed the reunion at Ft. Bragg. I heard some very fine reports. Will try to make amends and hope to meet the engineer gang in Detroit in June.

Co. F, 60th Inf.
CHARLES H. CARON
518 Michigan Ave.
Gladstone, Mi. 49837

I received the Octofoil you sent me. Was I overjoyed! I saw the names of some guys I thought I knew for sure. I thought quite often about taking a trip to Ft. Bragg if my health would hold out and my finances. I would like to try and make Detroit for I have relatives there to stay with. Got my 9th division book out and it brings old times back. Looking forward to receiving the paper. Thanks much.

• • • • •

If you are planning on moving or heading to the warmer climate for the winter months, please notify the secretary of your new address. It will save postage and keep you on the Octofoil mailing list.

47th Inf Co B
MRS. GEORGE BERDAY
100 N. E. 6th Ave. Lot 286
Homestead, Fla. 33030

I am writing this about my dear husband George. He has been in and out of Homestead Air Force Base Hospital about 15 times since the reunion we went to in April '81 at Orlando, Florida, when they formed the Florida chapter. In Dec. 1981 they airvac him to Walter Reed in Washington, D.C. He seems to get weaker each day. I wrote a letter in May or June 1981 and told of his trouble. Anyone that comes this way, I am sure a visit with him would cheer him up very much. He is in the Medical Ward, Ward D. I also wrote Manny Efron's wife a letter. He and his wife paid us a visit before he passed away.

47th Inf. Co B
JOSEPH S. PODANY
2956 N. E. Benjamin St.
Minneapolis, MN. 55418

Enclosed is a check for my 1983 dues. Sorry couldn't make the reunion last year. It was great receiving a postcard from Artie Stenzel, signed by all my buddies at the Ft. Bragg reunion. I also read in this issue of the Octofoil which Walter Lovejoy wrote in regard to the passing of Nick Palega. I, too, considered Nick one of my best friends and buddy, enjoyed his company and his wife's at the last 5 reunions which I attended with them. It's been a long time since I've seen Lovejoy.

39th Inf 3RD Bn
FRANCIS X. TIERNEY
88 Aspen Ledge Rd.
Ridgefield, Ct. 06877

I am enclosing an obituary notice for John Kirkup. I was not aware that we lived within 10 miles of each other so we never had the occasion to get re-acquainted. I met his wife at the funeral service and she told me that John had kept in touch with the association and many individual buddies. She mentioned attending many of the Memorial services conducted by Father Connors and recalled meeting you and your wife. My best regards to you, your family and all members and families of the association.

47th Inf.
LEONARD KUPKOWSKI
27 N. Gazelle St.
Dunkirk, N.Y. 14048

Though you should know of the passing of Michael Laurito on Jan. 4. He attended quite a few reunions with his wife and daughter. That is how we first met them as they live 4 miles from us but never knew them till one reunion when they said they lived in Fredonia. Our daughter, Ginger, is at Jamestown Business College and will graduate in June. Our son, Lenny was home for the holiday as he is in the Navy. He just received a citation from the C.O. of the ship USS L.Y. Spears AS 36 for meritorious service in the superior performance of duty while serving as a member of the Torpedo Repair Division from Aug. 1981 to Mar. 1982. He is in Fla. now but soon will be going to Conn. We are very proud of our Navy boy. Hope this short note gives you all a healthy New Year.

Co H, 60th Inf.
DALE E. DEARDORFF
153 Carlisle St.
Gettysburg, Pa. 17325

I do enjoy the newspaper even though I joined the division in England as a replacement in Jan. 1944 and was wounded early after the invasion. I continue to look for any news from H Co buddies. Recently I saw the name of Theodore Koller of Peekskill, N.Y. Hope to see some others at the reunion.

Co. C, 47th Inf.
GEORGE GAJDOS
435 Daniel Dr.
Aliquippa, Pa. 15001

Enclosed are my dues for the next 3 years. I've been reading the Octofoil for 3 years. I must say that it does bring me great joy to read about others who were with the 9th during the many months that I was with this great outfit. I've been looking for names from C Co., 47th Inf. that were there between St. Lo and the Rhine River crossing. I hope some of them see this letter and respond. It sure would be nice to see them in Detroit. I just received my Nov.-Dec. issue and am looking forward to some good reading. Keep up the good work. Good Luck and God Bless.

M Co. 47th Inf.
WILTON TAYLOR
Stop 6
McKittrick, Ca. 93251

We had a lovely Christmas at home. My brother bought out a few nice food gifts from a health food store and shared it with us. Then there was Christmas dinner with some Canadian friends who work for Shell Oil 15 miles north of us as well as several 47th men including Gen. Randle who told of his nice visit to Ft. Bragg last year. I've been confined to light duty, no lifting heavy things, as I had prostate surgery in early December. Bled a lot which made me weak but I am better. We hike every day, several miles when the weather is good. Best wishes to all the 9th men. Seems like only yesterday we sailed to North Africa!

47 Inf. D. Co.
MILTON SCHNEIDER
1804 Roosevelt Ave.
N. Bellerose, N.Y. 11710

I was very happy to hear from you and am sorry I didn't answer sooner. I know that being a member again will make me very happy. Thank you for Frank Brusie's address, I will get in touch with him very soon. Enclosed find check for membership dues.

60th Inf. Hq. 2nd Bn.
JOHN COMPEL
2020 Barnsdale Ave.
McKeesport, Pa. 15132

Enclosed are my dues for 1983. Enjoyed the convention in North Carolina this past summer. May attend the Detroit get together but am not sure yet. Best wishes for a Happy and Prosperous New Year.

Co A, 15th Engrs.
EDWARD RICKERT
4912 W. 156 St.
Oak Forest, Ill. 60452

It's that time of the year to send in my dues to the association. I enjoy reading the Octofoil, at this Christmas time, I was thinking of the Christmas of 1942. We had our Christmas church service outside of Wine vats in which we lived in Africa. Christmas of '43 was in a little better surroundings. We had church services in the mess hall in Winchester, England. Christmas of '44 was a little different. Kaltenberg, Germany was the spot. No chance for services, too much activity. And the happy Christmas of '45, back home and attending church services with the family. I received Christmas cards from several of my old buddies from Co A, 15th Engrs.

1983 Reunion July 21, 22, 23

Rowdy Investment

While the price of almost everything has skyrocketed, you can still get an argument by putting your two cents in.

—Franklin P. Jones, Quote

mail call

continued

9th Med's.

PETE RADICHO 703
9415 Blind Pass Rd.

St. Petersburg Beach, Fl. 33706

It's the beginning of a new year, a time for setting new goals for a happier and more fulfilling life. It's time to celebrate lasting friendships and memories with old 9th division friends. Last fall, while watching the TV report of the dedication of the Vietnam war memorial in Washington and seeing the march of those men who fought for us all in Vietnam, it brought home to me that these men were as much a war veteran as anyone who served in WW I and II, or the Korean War. As a staunch 9th division man from the time I was drafted, to the end of our war at the Elbe River in Germany, and for the rest of my life, I was always quick to say that the vets of Vietnam had nothing in common with us. But I have changed my mind and I hope that some of you will also change, thereby bringing more meaning and new life in to our good but soon to be declining organization. I was so proud to see the 9th Memorial unveiled in Ft. Bragg. It gave us recognition and made us feel that we were not forgotten. The dedication on the Memorial stone also included the Veterans of Vietnam and why should we forget them or relegate them to a lesser position? As for me, I am 67 yrs. old and all you fellows are close to that. How much longer are we going to be able to make the reunions? And the Taps section of the Octofoil isn't going to go away. I urge every member of the 9th division to meditate for a moment, ask yourself "Am I being a fair and open minded American, or have I forgotten the Golden Rule?"

One of my sons was in Vietnam, one of my nephews was badly shot up in Nam and one of our own men, the late Joe Toderello, lost a son there. Some of you must have seen the TV news report of the Vietnam Memorial dedication and witnessed our own Gen. Westmoreland leading the parade of Vietnam vets who were marching to the dedication, they marched with pride and I was proud of them. It was an emotional experience and these men were deserving of our respect. Their ranks included the wounded, the broken in spirit and those who only performed their duty, just the same as our ranks. Men of the 9th, if you have any doubt on how to vote on this issue, let me add this: I am doing voluntary work at the Bay Pines V.A. hospital here in Florida and my work is in the physiotherapy dept. The men I work on are from WW I, II, Korean and Vietnam. I wish I could do much more for these men and it makes me aware that we are the same and together regardless of which war one was in. There is no rank privileges in a V.A. hospital, everybody is the same. I am dedicated to these men, they are my kind of people. My resolution for this year is to be part of the group who will work toward getting a "yes" vote when the issue comes up again. I am proud of our 9th division organization and would like to see it continue on in history with our 9th division men. Are we being selfish? Should we let it die a slow death? My apologies if I offended any of my friends. I would prefer not to make enemies, I love you all!

Thank you for taking the time to read my letter and I hope it is published. I would be glad to accept all mail, pro and con. Let the chips fall where they may. I'm sure Gen. Westmoreland, Father Connors and some of the rest of us in favor of this can lead the way to a "yes" vote. Thank you and God Bless.

60th Inf. K Co. Hqs.

JOE RAPPAZINI

24001 Sherman

Oak Park, Mich. 48237

Greetings from the midwest. Good fortune to you and Marie. May your years be blessed with peace and the contentment it sheds. Again it was grand to receive the Octofoil. It's a gem that casts its glow upon the 9th division and those who filled its ranks so worthily.

Hours, days, months, years

All march by in the passing parade.

But the reel of memories that steadily unfold,

Cannot by the poet, or the author, be retold.

Locked in the heart of each and all

Who so loyally did serve,

Remains a vestige of pride that only it does conserve.

For loyalty to country and comrades in arms

Forges a sound monument to hearts that are warm.

So that even though time tirelessly, endlessly wends its way

Our faith in this land, hope for peace, are bastions that do not sway.

1st Bn. 60th, A & D Bn. Hqs.

JOHN K. MOORE

3801 30th Ave. W.

Bradenton, Fl. 33505

Once again I am racing and trying to beat the deadline marked by RED INK. Think maybe I made it this year. Everytime I see a copy of the Octofoil, my thoughts and thanks go out to you and your wife. I don't move out of this corner of the country very much so the Octofoil is the biggest and best reminder of some of the best years of my life. Unfortunately, I seldom see a name that rings any bells. Best regards and again thanks.

60th Inf
Co. "F" and Service Co.
1940-42

LLOYD H. ANDERSON

938 So. Ohio St.

Salina, Kansas 67401

Enclosed find the check covering dues, and the 60th Book you sent. I'm pleased with it but sorry that I could not have the 8 Stars which were printed. Would it be possible that you could find one of the old members that may have one for sale and let me know. Also would like to put a notice in the Mail Call if possible.

Would like to get in touch with the lads of both these Co.s who remembers me during the training, tent city, build up of the Co.s Fire fighting, and maneuvers from the Pee Dee River to the Chesapeake Bay Amphibs. These times were some of the best times I had in the service and some of the best friends that I have lost contact with over the years. I did not get to serve with the 60th in combat but served with the 44th Div. 42-45, and then Korea with the 24th Div. 50-52. I will answer all letters from those that would like to write.

Dan, if there are any collectors in the unit of patches, Div and Regt histories, stamps and Aircraft pictures, and Sqrd and Wing patches I would like to get in touch with them. Now I belong to the 44th Div Assoc, and the 24th Div. Assoc. and the 9th Div. and hope to find some long lost friends.

39th Inf. A,B,C,D & Hq. Co.

CHARLES SCHEFFEL

8620 N. Glenwood Ave.

Okla. City, Okla. 73114

This is to inform you that Col. Ralph Edgar passed away on Jan. 5, 1983 at home in Ohio. Ralph joined the 39th, A Co. in North Africa, then Sicily, England and Europe. I believe when he left the 39th in 1945 he was the Company Commander. He retired from active duty as a Col. after worldwide tours including India. Ralph and I were 2nd Lts. in Tunisia and I had C Co. of the 39th when I got hit the last time near Lammersdorf, Germany, on Sept. 14, 1944. Having retired as a Captain in 1946 on disability after maximum hospitalization, am finally now retiring from the local insurance agency business after 37 years. Have a son, Capt. Charles Lee Scheffel, Inf. US Army Ranger-Paratrooper type, who is now in Advanced Officer's Class at Ft. Benning and then going back to the 82nd Airborne at Ft. Bragg. He asked me one day recently why I didn't tell him what the infantry was really like? I told him 'You never asked me.' If any of the fellows from the 1st Bn. of the 39th ever get out to Okla. City, just give us a call. Sorry we didn't make the Bragg reunion, but in April 1982 our car was hit head on by a drunken driver. We both sustained multiple fractures. Seat belts and harness saved us as well as a good samaritan. We were both knocked unconscious and the car on fire. So all the guys and gals "buckle up" for Charlie. Best of luck to all.

47th Inf. G Co & Div.

Finance

MARTIN J. GILL

2401 Pennington Rd.

Trenton, N.J.

Thought I would like to know that the publicity effort on behalf of the 38th annual reunion hasn't been ignored insofar as one of the 2 local daily newspapers are concerned. Sorry that we had to miss you and the rest of the gang at Worcester and the N.Y. chapter Christmas party. I had to call Fran Maher that Saturday morning to cancel out because of Peg's high fever, sore throat, etc. She had been fighting a miserable cold during the entire week but the "bug" really hit on Saturday morning. On the morning of the Christmas party there were a couple of inches of snow on the ground as we came out of 11 a.m. Mass. That eliminated any enthusiasm for the drive in to New York City. Best wishes to you and the rest of the gang for a most healthy and successful New York. God Bless.

84th F A H.Q. Btry

NEWTON FIELDS

521 John Rolfe

Monroe, Mi. 48161

I am looking forward to the reunion in Detroit and hope to see lots of buddies from the 84th F.A. As you can see by the map I live only 30 miles south of Detroit on Lake Erie. What a great pleasure it was for Jimmie, his wife and I to visit with M/Sgt. John Boiskey in Panama City recently. I had not seen him since 1944 at St. Lo, France. I was wounded July 17, 1944 along with Kenneth Jones and Sidney Baker. I would like to hear from any association members in West Virginia who might know Sidney Baker or his whereabouts. Keep up the good work and best regards to the guys of the 9th.

Co K 60th Inf

ROBERT H. RUCKER

205 Greenway Drive

Bryan, Texas 77801

The greatest thing that happened to me in 1982 was getting to attend the reunion in Fayetteville/Fort Bragg. Forty years has certainly made a difference but thank the Lord many of us are still able to navigate. Personally, I am very much like the DONKEY, my "git up and go has got up and went!"

1982 started off with another trip to the hospital for a second knee implant in the left knee which still has me using one crutch as you saw at the reunion. On November 15 the orthopedic surgeon released me for homework and golf, and being the eternal optimist I took my golf shoes with me to Hawaii the following Friday. (as you see, I had quite a moving experience but no golf) It was quite a finale for an annual meeting. Let's hope that Detroit does not try anything like this. However, everyone should make every effort to get to Detroit as the hotel and Renaissance Center will make quite a C.P.! It has many amenities that Port-Lyautey, Mehdi, cork forest, etc. were lacking. It is a fabulously beautiful piece of contemporary architecture and really has something for everyone.

In October I had a very good visit with Charlie and Ruth Fort and daughter Nancy while on a business trip to Winston-Salem. Then I went on to Buies Creek, just North of Fort Bragg for another good visit with Perry Langston and Miss Blue.

July saw me back to see my dermatologist and a session for the removal of a malignant tumor from my right cheek. This kinda shook me I understand and know what to expect about having artificial leg #18 and being on my second artificial left knee but the unknown of tumors gets me. However, I know that I have had forty years, that I did not count on so everything is a plus! I enjoy every Christmas to the fullest and know that you do also. Christmas of '42 in the cork forest with sweet potatoes and vienna sausage supplement with 35 gallons of wine is, thank goodness ... only a memory.

In November, I had breakfast with J.Y. Terry in Ruston, La. and he is planning on making Detroit. As my son lives there, I see Terry about twice a year. Abe Strom is in Israel and his address was in the communication (newsletter) from Bruchac. He would certainly enjoy a letter from some of you. He was my messenger and looked after me during the 27 hours on Hill 322 in the middle of Djebel Naemia with the leg blown off!

May you and those dear to you have a MERRY CHRISTMAS AND A HAPPY NEW YEAR.

K Co 60th Inf.

JAMES HART, JR.

7 Nenagh Dr.

Wilmington, Del. 19803

Guess I am getting better in my old age. Think this is the 3rd year in a row I have beaten the RED ink. Hope you and your family have the very best Christmas ever and that 1983 will be a banner year. Regards to all.

1983 Reunion

Detroit July 21, 22, 23

When was the last time you wrote a letter to our Mail Call Column? Just a postal card would denote your interest and let some buddy know where you are. You like to read what other members send in . . . why not do your own part and write a few lines now and then for their enjoyment.

M Co, 60th Inf.

CURTIS BUCHANAN

2914 Alexander St.

Florence, Ala. 35360

Phone 205-766-2716

Dear Dan or successor:

It would be greatly appreciated if you would print this in the next issue of the Octofoil. There are so many of us from Florida, Georgia, Tennessee, Alabama, Mississippi and adjoining states that cannot attend the national reunion in Detroit in 1983; I thought we might have a company get together here in the muscle shoal area of Alabama; June 23rd - 25th which would be Thurs., Fri., and Sat. then leave and go home on Sunday. This is a resort area with the most beautiful three story Holiday Inn Motel and convention center I have seen in all my travels. (especially with the internal revenue.) An eighteen hole golf course five minutes away, a state liquor store & retail beer sales only three minutes away; then wonderful food at Syd's in the Holiday Inn, or go next door to this restaurant and lounge, The Fog Cutter, and nothing is better. (including the prices.) The price of a room in this beautiful Holiday Inn is \$40.00 per night for a double with two beds, and \$40.00 per night with a queen size and roll out sofa. So these prices are reasonable this day and time.

I talked to John Hale in Dunedin, Fla. a few minutes ago and he was real excited; said it would be impossible for him to make it to Detroit; this is only an "M" Company get together but anyone who ever wore the Octofoil will be greeted with open arms. My favorites at the National Conventions I would love to see are: Bovinizer, Brum, Brady, Bruchac, Elichko, Englighee, Gargie, Gronseth, Hale, Frazier, Luce, Lubrano, MacDonald, Roy Smith, Wilfred Thornton, Waddell and Keene Wilson.

May I add this before closing; please bring your wives as this is a most scenic and historical community.

Any and all can get in touch with me at the above address.

60th Inf Co D

JAMES BARR

11 Sunset Rd.

Lynn, Ma. 01904

I was introduced to Sam Robinson of Swampscott, Mass. by my brother. Sam has a store and my brother found out he was with the 9th in Europe. We had a great time talking about the division. He gave me a copy of the Octofoil and I had goose pimples break out over me and I've read it about 10 times. I only wish I had known about the association before this. I joined the 9th in Winchester, England, Co D, 60th Infantry. I was hit the morning of Sept. 6 on the other side of the Meuse River in Belgium. I was in the 5th General Hospital in Paris, then they flew me to England to the 99th Gen. Hospital. When I was discharged from the hospital, I was classified unfit for combat. I stayed in England then I was sent to France and Germany before I was discharged from the service. I am enclosing a check for 3 yrs dues, etc. I've done a lot of reading in my life, but I don't think anything will compare with reading about the 60th, 39th and 47th. God Bless Them All!

MAIL CALL

Co. F 47th Inf.
OTTO W. GEYER
5700 Escondida Blvd.
St. Petersburg, Fla. 33715

Jerry and I have now settled in Florida in our new Condo. We overlook Bora Ceique Bay and are on the 18th hole PGA golf course. Please change our address so we receive the Octofoil.

While packing all of my stuff (In St. Louis) I ran across the enclosed picture which might be of interest.

The picture was taken at Brighton Woods in England the morning Jimmy Cagney put on a show at Regimental Hqs. E and F companies were at Brighton Woods and would not have seen Jimmy because of no transportation. We sent Lt. Leopold to see what he could do to bring Jimmy to us. He enticed Jimmy and his piano player with a hot bath and plenty of Scotch to put on a show for E and F companies. After the show in the evening he took his bath and consumed quite a bit of Scotch. Later that night he painted a picture of himself on the wall and signed it. Early the following morning he put on another show for those that missed him the night before. Jimmy is quite a guy.

Regards to all.

Co. L, 60th Inf.
EDWIN E. BREWER
222 Park Ave.
Maryville, Mo. 64468

Here's that old man from "Jessie James Country" writing again to Mail Call. You, Marie, and all those on various committees deserve a commendation from all of us for the splendid efforts toward the total success of our reunion last summer. Our hats are off to you all! It was a pleasure and real joy to have seen Bob and Betty Davis, John and Louise Lewis, Herman Rahn, Reed and Linda Vassar, James and Beatrice Johnson, Adolph and Peggy Wadalavage, Art Schmidt, Gen. Edwin H. and Mrs. Randle, John Klooz, Walter O'Keefe, Warren Evans, Sammie Goodwin and wife and of course, the Quinns. To those I haven't mentioned, forgive me. Prior commitments will keep me from coming to Detroit this year. Enclosed is check for dues and something for the Scholarship. God Bless you and yours.

26th FA
DICK WILSON
8945 Hidden Valley Rd.
Orlando, Fl. 32811

Just a few lines to let you know that Anne and I are still on this earth. On earth, right now, is Florida. I retired last Sept. and we are wintering down here. Bought the place last year and we're coming down for 2 weeks at a time. That's why we missed the Memorial and reunions. This year we plan to make Detroit. They really treated Anne & I in grand style when I was Nat'l Pres. If you're ever down this way stop in. We're a mile from Disney and five from Epcot. There are members close but haven't had a chance to look them up. I do miss our monthly meetings in Philly, but hear they have great ones down here. Keep up the good work and looking forward to seeing everyone.

Co. D, 9th Med. Bn.
JOHN SEVERINO
PO Box 3056
St. Petersburg, Fl. 33731

Just to let you know of my new address. We moved from New Mexico to Florida. Thank you.

47th Inf. AT Co.
ROGER GARTLAND
706 Marianna Rd.
Auburndale, Fl.

Just before Christmas I received a letter from Billy B.V. Randall who at present is in Amoco, Egypt. He was with Anti-tank. At present he is an instructor for oil well drillers. I am sure that several of the guys who were in Geo. Romaleys platoon will be eager to get in touch with him. His address: B.V. Randall, APC International Exp. Services, P.O. Box 38530, Houston, Tex. 77088. Dan, we hope to see you and many of the old reliables in Detroit. Best wishes.

Div Hqs.
JOHN M. ALLEY
4701 Kenmore Ave. Apt. 1317 E.
Alexandria, Va. 22304

Almost about to forget this. I think that the failure of the association to join with the other part of our veterans has something to do with that. My wife and I toured Portugal, Spain and Morocco last October and had a very good time. We were in Marrakech, Fez, Casablanca and Rabat. Except that the cities were larger, it looked the same as it was 40 years ago out in the country. Still no water and donkeys are still quite prevalent. Also the cork forests are the same. Do wish you people would accept the new 9th division people in the association. Regards to all.

Co. A, 47th Inf.
GLENN L. WEAVER
4904 Monument Ave.
Richmond, Va. 23230

Let me introduce myself, I am Glenn Weaver, former member of the 9th Co. A, 47th Infantry. I served with the division through the Normandy and Northern France campaign before being wounded on Aug. 8, 1944 near St-Lo. I was evacuated to the 82nd Gen. Hospital in England. After recuperating I rejoined my outfit near Aachen, Germany. Shortly after rejoining my outfit, I was again hospitalized in Paris and declared unfit for further combat, then I lost all contact with my outfit until 39 years later when a now current member saw my name in a bulletin, contacted my brother, obtained my address and contacted me by telephone. The member's name is Dennis Kelley of Roanoke, Va. Dennis informed me of the association and urged me to join. Had I known there was an association I would have joined before this. Please accept enclosed check for membership in the association. Dennis Kelley is a former neighborhood friend and we were discharged together from Fort Meade, Md. on Jan. 29, 1946.

Co. B, 39th Inf.
IRVING TERCHAK
2559 S. 90th St.
West Allis, WI. 53227

First of all may I wish the best of health to all the men in the entire 9th division in the coming year. Also it's time to renew my membership and to send my annual check for the Memorial Fund. In the last issue of the Octofoil, I read about the passing of Sgt. Joseph DeOrio. When I joined the 39th in Nov. 1941, he was my Sgt. and treated me with respect. May God grant him eternal rest! My regards to his brother-in-law Albert Baccile also of Co. B, 29th Inf. Hope to see all of my buddies in Detroit this summer. Gods blessing to all of you.

Hq. 1st Bn. 60th Inf.
RALTON M. SPEERS
5 Patricia Ave.
Albany, N.Y. 12203

Greetings and best wishes in the New Year. Enclosed please find my dues for 3 years.

We are looking forward to seeing everyone again this year in Detroit, Michigan in July at the reunion.

We also enjoyed our weekend in Worcester in Nov. and our stay at the Marriott.

It sure got cold here in Albany this week. We got 24 inches of snow this past weekend. That enough for the rest of the winter as far as I am concerned.

34th FA
LEON J. BIRUM
R 1, Box 59
Union City, Ind. 47390

1982 was a great year! After years of fading memories, my dream came true! First, Ft. Bragg in June and then Worcester in November. Words cannot describe the emotions and feelings to meet old friends and just to talk to anyone from the 9th. The biggest thrill in years was marching from the fire station to the church in Worcester, and to see Gen. Westmoreland double timing to the front of the column, brought back old memories of serving with the 34th FA in Ft. Bragg, Africa, Sicily and England. I actually had tears in my eyes! The story by Paul Vitello in the Octofoil was great. To again meet Father Connors and to see the unbelievable job he has done in promoting the Memorial Mass was indeed an inspiration. I envy the men who live in that area and can attend every year. Jim Swotchak kept me informed about the yearly Mass and he was right! My wife and I had a wonderful 2 days visiting with Sheldon and Myrtle Stoddard in Portsmouth, N.H. after the Memorial Mass. It was also great seeing Stoddard, Connelly, Baldrige, Nappen, Mills, Swotchak, Lopez, Steele and many, many others. I retired in Nov. 1982 from Westinghouse after 31 years. Enclosed is a check for 3 years dues. It was a beautiful year!

60th FA, B Btry
WARREN R. FEDDER
PO Box 67
St. Charles, Mi. 48655

I appreciate you sending a copy of the Octofoil. Enclosed is my check for dues, etc. I enlisted in the U.S. Army in Sept. 1940 and was assigned to Btry E 26th FA at Ft. Bragg. We lived in what they called Tent City. Approximately 4 months later the 26th was broken up and Btry E became Btry B 60th FA of which I served until after the war ended in Germany. I was involved in all campaigns from the landing in Morocco, Sicily and Normandy.

60th Co. L & 39th Co. A
OREN M. HELLE
205 E. Drifill, Sp. 21
Oxnard, Ca. 93030

I saw your clipping in the paper about the reunion. Didn't even know you had an association. Enclosed is a check for 3 years dues. Joined the 60th in Ft. Bragg and shipped overseas with the 39th, wounded at El Guettar and was never able to return to the company. Hope to make it to Detroit for the reunion but not sure yet. Staying with my mother who is 89, so just depends on her health.

9th Signal
JERRY KLEIN
PO Box 215
Gillette, N.J. 07933

Greetings to the men of the 9th Signal Company!

THE OCTOFOIL

Publication No. 402820

412 Gregory Ave Weehawken, N. J. 07087-

Second-Class Postage paid at Union City, N. J. Authorized as of October 1, 1967

IS YOUR OCTOFOIL

ADDRESSED WITH

TELL-TALE RED INK?

Once again it is that time of the year when we remind you to check your membership card for "it is now dues time". If you have not already done so, please remit your dues at once in order to save your association time and expense of mailing out dues notices and reminders. Like every thing else the cost of mail is "going up" but if we all pitch in we can help defray this expense.

A limited budget keeps us from mailing the Octofoil to those who fall in the delinquent class. Send in your dues to the Secretary's office, 412 Gregory Avenue, Weehawken, N.J. 07087.

DUES ARE DUE

47th Inf. Co E & G
HARRY KENNEY
Box 67
Eagle Rock, Mo. 65641

Thank goodness for small favors and good luck. I recently visited John Hill, formerly Lt. H Co. 47th and to my horror learned that he attended a reunion at Ft. Bragg last summer. Oh, how I wish I had known! I once was a member of the association, got in when it started and still get out my copy of Eight Stars occasionally. I joined E Co. 47th on the St Lo-Perrier Road and except for the last 2 months of the war, was-with "Easy Company" the entire time. Left to go to "George" as C.O. a week or so after we crossed "the bridge". I have many fond memories of guys like Von Achen (1st sgt) Pulio and Johnson (4th pl) Renner and McDonald (2nd pl) Stevenson (Medic) Frank Petty, Jay Garner and of course John Hill, Bill Neece (H Co) and many others. I saw Sgt. Combs name in the Octofoil. Great Guy! I will certainly be in Detroit if the good Lord is willing.

60th Inf. CAN. Co and Pers Hq.
MICHAEL DERESH
9212 40th Way, N.
Pinellas Park, Fl. 33565

Enclosed is a check for dues. Just returned from a cruise on the Veendam which is now in Tampa. All the best to you and the gang.

47th Inf. Cannon Co.
Bill Coen
Rt 3 Box 426
Supply, N.C. 28462

I am enclosing my dues for 3 years. We are leaving Pa. for our new location near Holden Beach, N.C. Jan. 18. Goodbye we hope to all the extreme cold. I had a call from Tom McGinley before we sold our home. He is working about 10 miles from where I am now. I'll also be close to some of those cannon co. guys from Tarboro, 4 of them showed up at Ft. Bragg. The first ever for them.

39th Inf. C Co
HERBERT EHRICH
12052 Fairway Ave.
Highpoint
Brooksville, Fl. 33512

Enclosed is a years dues. I was formerly with C Co 39th. Thanks for the Octofoil. Pictures on page 2 recalled pleasant memories. Good luck.

The deadline for the next issue will be April 20th.

Div. Hq. Co.
JOHN BRANDI
400 Buckeye St.
Tiltonsville, Ohio 43963

Enclosed is a check for my dues. Sorry that we missed the last 2 reunions. We hope to attend the affair in Detroit. Enclosed is a clipping from the Martins Ferry, Ohio Times-Leader, letter to the Editor column. Was very much surprised that we have a P.R. man in Elmer Wagner. I showed the clipping to some of my barber shop customers and they also felt that we are something special. I have the map that Father Connors, with his compliments and a draftsman A.G. Burns from G-5 designed, in a frame. It was given to us when we were leaving for home. A lot of people from other outfits traveled the same route. Best wishes to all.

47th Inf. Co G
HERMON RAHN
R#1, Box 310
Pisgah, N.C. 28768

I have had so many wonderful experiences since learning about the association and joining it last year. William R. McLaughlin got in touch with me in January. I had not seen him since 1942. He was in G Co when I got there in October, 1940 but went to Service company shortly after. I enjoy reading all the letters that the men of the 9th write but when I read the letter from Gen. Randle, it really capped the stack for me. The General was such a great commander. After reading the letter I finally got enough nerve to write him a letter asking about the book "Safi Adventure" and an autograph. I received a letter promising the book and the autograph. It will be one for me to cherish and for my children after it has been "So Long for all the 9th Division Joes." The poem sent in by Mike Procvic was great. I could hear the echo!

39th Inf. Co. D
EDWARD LEWIS
1841 S. 51 Ct.
Cicero, Ill. 60650

I'm sorry to be a little late with my dues, but things get a little hectic once in a while. Wishing all the members and you a belated Holiday greeting.

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